

# THE MAUI NEWS

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WILL J. COOPER, : : : EDITOR AND MANAGER

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## AN APOLOGY.

If this issue of the MAUI NEWS falls short in appearance, or in quality, we trust our readers will bear with us, remembering that this has been a rather strenuous week in Wailuku. In fact we feel rather elated that we have been able to appear at all. In common with most other enterprises we have had our troubles, not the least of which was that we were without light or power for operating linotype or presses, until yesterday afternoon. And in common with all Maui we sincerely hope that such another week will not soon occur again.

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## THE GOVERNOR'S CONSCRIPTION THREAT.

The preparedness craze has certainly about reached the limit when the price of a man's job depends upon whether or not he belongs to the militia. But that is just what the letter of Governor Pinkham, to heads of territorial departments, amounts to. It specifically directs that preference be given to members of the national guard, in filling vacancies and there is more than a hint to present employees in the sentence—"Employees are urged to at once perform their duty by enlisting."

What are we coming to anyway, that a governor should dare to utter such a manifesto? What shall we call it—conscription? Conscription means—"to enroll, by compulsion, for military service." What else is this than compulsion through threat of one's means of making a living?

If Governor Pinkham has made any false moves since he took his office, this is certainly the worst; and unless we are mistaken will be one of the strongest weapons against him in the hands of his enemies.

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## PUNISHMENT AS A DETERRENT OF CRIME.

The territorial grand jury in its report of conditions in the territory, dwells at some length on what it terms an "excess of leniency" shown by courts and executive in dealing with those convicted of crime. It declares that punishments should be such as to deter others from committing crime. That those who violate the law should suffer adequate punishment, is no doubt right. That this punishment should be measured with a view to preventing others committing like offenses, is open to serious question. That juries will not convict indiscriminately when iron-clad laws demand what is believed to be punishment in excess of what the crime merits; and that executive clemency is continually being granted, is acknowledgment that laws cannot be made to fit crimes. No two cases are exactly alike. Every one has its special chain of circumstances that mitigate or intensify its seriousness as far as the culprit is concerned. It is in recognition of this fact that latitude is given to courts in imposing sentence, and that the pardoning power is placed in the hands of the executive. And this is as it should be. Punishment is not vengeance. It presumes the possibility of reform, and what may effect a cure in one case, may be wholly excessive or inadequate for other offenders. It is not easy to make these distinctions, but it is what our courts are for—to do the best they can in each case at it arises.

There was a time in England when to steal so small a thing as a loaf of bread, to ward off starvation, was a capital offense. And to impress others who might be tempted, gibbets with their ghastly burdens, stood at almost every cross-roads. Yet crime was not eradicated. On the same principle, until recent years it was common in most states to make a public demonstration of an execution. A hanging was the occasion for a public holiday. Men, women and children, for miles around gathered by thousands around a gallows erected in the open air, in order to see a fellow human being hurled into eternity. The idea for this was that the example would prevent others from committing crime. But murders still continued, and a more enlightened public sentiment now prevents such horrible spectacles except in possibly a few places. Whether recognized or not, the conviction has become fixed that such executions did more to brutalize a community than to instill into it the fear of punishment. The mother who controls her young hopeful through threats of the "bogy-man" or police, is not the one who usually gives to society the highest type of useful citizen; nor is the community that attempts to prevent crime through the rigors of its punishment inflicted upon criminals, the one that has the least crime to punish.

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In connection with the calling off of the lecture course planned by the principal of the Wailuku Public School, the trouble appears to be that the department of public instruction was not first consulted in the matter. In fact the department now lets it be known that it considers the plan an excellent one, and suggests that the lectures may be given outside of the regular school hours on Friday afternoons. Inasmuch as the time of teachers and pupils is their own after school hours, and as the legislature has given the public the free use of school houses for public meetings, the suggestion loses a good deal of its weight. In fact we understand that if the assembly room of the school had been provided with lights, the lectures would probably have been held in the evening. As it was, but one hour of school time, twice each month, would have been used. We are frank to say that we believe the attitude of the department has been a mistaken one in this instance. But because we believe that the idea of bringing pupils and public into closer touch a most excellent one, we hope that the plan will not be dropped.

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Unless there are serious objections not apparent to the average observer, it would seem that the Inter-Island company might easily earn the sincere appreciation of the Maui public by routing the steamer Mauna Kea via Kahului, in times of kona weather when landings are impossible at Lahaina or other south coast ports. The distance by the north shore would not appreciably increase the sailing distance between Honolulu and Hilo, and besides would give the vessel the advantage of a lee shore run. Also the Maui business should be a material consideration of the company. It has been a week now since the Mauna Kea has stopped at Maui at all, and with the road to Lahaina impassable the main part of the island would have benefitted nothing if she had. A suggestion in this connection through the chamber of commerce might be all that is necessary to get regular mail and passenger service for Maui regardless of weather conditions.

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Contractor Foss says he can build a concrete road in the Haiku homesteads for the amount which is to be spent for macadam in that district. The idea is worth considering.

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